

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5713

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-FRANCE CIVAIR RELATIONS

1. IN ANTICIPATION SERIES OF LUNCHEON MEETINGS RCAA HAS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK WITH REPS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, SGAC AND AIR FRANCE FOR PERIODIC INFORMAL REVIEW OF CIVAIR RELATIONS, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. DID CAB TAKE ACTION ON PANAM COMPLAINT AIR FRANCE MAY HAVE OPERATED PART CHARTERS (WEEKEND ITC'S) ON ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK NOV. 1? PANAM HAS GIVEN US COPY OF NOV. 13 FOLLOW-UP LETTER ITS WASHINGTON LAWYERS ADDRESSED TO CAB BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT INQUIRING ABOUT THIS MATTER.
- B. WERE AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS DEC. 21 CHECKED AS RESULT PARIS 30525 AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE RESULT? HAS THERE BEEN ANY GENERAL INCREASE IN SURVEILLANCE OF AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS FOLLOWING EMBASSY'S EARLIER REPORTING ON SUSPECTED PART CHARTER ACTIVITY BY AIR FRANCE?
- C. WHAT DO CAB RECORDS SHOW AS NUMBER OF FRENCH-ORIGIN ABC (VARA) FLIGHTS TO US FOR WHICH AUTHORIZATION WAS REQUESTED DURING FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1974?
- D. WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH SGAC WAS DISPOSED TO MAKE EXCEPTION TO 60 DAY REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE FILING OF PASSENGER LISTS FOR VARA FLIGHTS TO US. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN RECENT CASES

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IN WHICH VARA FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN HELD OUT TO THE PUBLIC

(AS OPPOSED TO A STANDBY LIST) BY THE CHARTERING GROUP
WITHIN THE 60 DAY PERIOD PRECEDING DEPARTURE AND,
INDEED, UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE; THIS COULD ONLY
HAVE OCCURRED WITH SGAC CONNIVANCE. NOT ONLY DO SUCH
PRACTICES (WHICH DIFFER FROM SUBSTITUTIONS UNDER OUR
TGC RULE) CONTRAVENE WHAT WE RECOGNIZE AS "CHARTER-
WORTHY" FRENCH-ORIGIN TRAFFIC AS AGREED IN US-FRANCE
MOU ON ADVANCE CHARTERS, BUT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH
ADVANCE BOOKING FEATURE THAT IS PRIME CHARACTERISTIC OF
VARA DISTORTS DATA THAT SHOULD PROVIDE YARDSTICK FOR
MEASUREMENT OF HOW EFFECTIVE TGC/ABC MAY BE AS
ALTERNATIVE TO AFFINITY CHARTERS. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE
TO INFORM SGAC INFORMALLY THAT WE ARE AWARE OF POSSIBLE
RECENT EXCEPTIONS AND WE EXPECT SGAC TO ENFORCE STRICT
COMPLIANCE WITH 60 DAY DEADLINE. ARE DEPT. AND CAB
AGREEABLE?

E. HOW EARLY MIGHT DECISION BE TAKEN ON PANAM-TWA
ROUTE SWAP AND, IF FAVORABLE, HOW SOON MIGHT IT BE
IMPLEMENTED THEREAFTER?

F. IS THERE ANY UPDATED READING ON WHEN CAB DECISION
MIGHT BE HANDED DOWN IN TRANSATLANTIC ROUTE PROCEEDING?
TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD PANAM-TWA ROUTE SWAP IF APPROVED
HAVE BEARING ON OUTCOME OF TRANSATLANTIC ROUTE
PROCEEDING?

2. BOTH SGAC (ESPEROU) AND AIR FRANCE (MME. RIVOAL)
HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE "MANY POINTS" THEY ARE
ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS WITH RCAA BUT HAVE PROVIDED NO
ADVANCE INKLING OF SUBJECT MATTER.
RUSH

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